

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND MADISON, INDIANA

FINAL

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BCT	BRAC Cleanup Team
BEC	BRAC Environmental Coordinator
BRAC	Base Realignment and Closure
BTC	Base Transition Coordinator
DOD	U.S. Department of Defense
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
EPA	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
IDEM	Indiana Department of Environmental Management
IRP	Installation Restoration Program
JPG	Jefferson Proving Ground
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
RAB	Restoration Advisory Board
RI/FS	Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
SAIC	Science Applications International Corporation
TECOM	U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
UST	Underground Storage Tank
UXO	Unexploded Ordnance

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) served its mission of acceptance testing of ammunition, ordnance, and propellant and weapons systems for over 50 years. Since its closure in 1995 under the Department of Defense Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Program, the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command at Aberdeen, Maryland has been managing JPG's base closure, remediation, and property transfer.

This Community Involvement Plan details a program to facilitate communication and information exchange with community on the closure and reuse of JPG. Moreover, this plan provides a framework and the mechanisms for a sustaining partnership between the U.S. Army and the community to work jointly on decisions affecting JPG. Elements of this plan respond directly to the community's requests for more frequent and timely exchange of information on JPG and involvement in decisions on environmental restoration and reuse plans.

The following community involvement activities are planned:

- ***Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) Meetings***—The RAB continue to be used as the primary forum for informing and involving stakeholders on JPG's environmental restoration and property disposal activities. The meetings are scheduled bimonthly.
- ***World Wide Web Page***—The Army will establish a World Wide Web site specific for JPG that will facilitate the public's access to information on JPG. This site is planned to be established by January 1998.
- ***Neighbor Information Program***—Property owners and renters of lands adjacent to JPG will be mailed updates on site investigations and proposed remedial actions, as appropriate.
- ***Small Group Briefings/Presentations***—Presentations to civic organizations, local officials, or other groups will be provided at their request to provide information on the status and plans for reuse of JPG.
- ***News Releases/Public Service Announcements***—These releases and announcements will be distributed to local and regional media as meetings are scheduled, special events are planned, significant programs occur, or other information of general interest is generated.

- ***Fact Sheets***—The mailing list will be used to provide JPG neighbors; civic, environmental, and citizen groups; businesses; and the media with information on the status of studies and remedial actions, updates on schedules, and special interest items.
- ***Community Informational Meetings***—The U.S. Army will schedule and host community meetings in response to local or county concerns and interests.
- ***JPG Tours/Open Houses/Special Events***—Tours and open houses will be held to familiarize groups or individuals with the installation and its ongoing restoration and property transfer activities.
- ***Maintenance of the Administrative Record/Information Repository***— Information contained at Hanover College and the Madison County Public Library will continue to be available to the public for review and inspection.

1. INTRODUCTION

This Community Involvement Plan details a program to facilitate communication and information exchange and encourage involvement of stakeholders interested in the closure and reuse of Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG). Effective communication and open and timely information exchange are essential to improve community understanding and create a partnership between the U.S. Army and the community that works jointly to make good decisions on the future of JPG.

This plan updates and expands the community relations plan developed previously by the U.S. Army (Dames and Moore 1995). The activities identified in this plan fulfill the applicable requirements of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, and the Defense Authorization Amendments and Base Realignment and Closure Act (Public Law 100-526).

This Community Involvement Plan is organized into the following sections:

- **Section 1**—Discusses the purpose of community involvement and presents a historical perspective on JPG community relations activities that have occurred or are ongoing. The community's concerns, which drive the revisions to the Community Involvement Plan, also are highlighted.
- **Section 2**—Presents an overview of JPG's mission and the status of environmental restoration activities.
- **Section 3**—Highlights the recent community interview process and the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and its roles and responsibilities.
- **Section 4**—Describes the revised community involvement goals, strategies, and schedule of activities.
- **Section 5**—Lists the references that were used in preparing this Community Involvement Plan.

This plan will be assessed periodically to determine the degree to which goals are being met.

1.1 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AT JPG

While operational, an ongoing public affairs program was in effect at Jefferson Proving Ground (JPG) designed to promote effective communication exchange between the U.S. Army and various Federal agencies, the State of Indiana, Jefferson County, Ripley County, Jennings County, the city of Madison, and the public. Since the closure process began in 1989, JPG has communicated with local communities on the status and plans for environmental restoration and reuse of the installation.

A community relations plan was released in February 1995 to respond to the public's concerns about the closure and reuse of JPG (Dames and Moore 1995). This 1997 revision of the plan has been developed in response to both the immediate and long-term needs and concerns of the community. Elements of this program respond specifically to the concerns noted in recent interviews, which are highlighted in Section 3.

The following are examples of community involvement activities related to past and ongoing environmental studies that have taken place at JPG:

- ***Restoration Advisory Board (RAB)***—The RAB provides a forum for discussion and exchange of information regarding JPG's environmental restoration program. In RAB meetings, the affected community has the opportunity to review progress and voice opinions on the closure process and related activities. The first RAB meeting was held in March 1994, and was attended by representatives from the U.S. Army, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region V, and Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), in addition to members of the local community. Quarterly meetings were held until recently, when the frequency increased to bimonthly. All RAB meetings are open to the public.
- ***Public Meetings***—Several public meetings have been held on the closure and reuse of JPG. Such meetings include one held by the JPG Regional Development Board on July 19, 1994 regarding the reuse plan for the installation and another that was held on April 25, 1995 on the draft disposal and reuse Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). An additional public meeting is planned in conjunction with the ongoing depleted uranium EIS.

- **Town Meeting**—A town meeting was held in April 1997 with senior Army representatives, State and local officials, and local citizens. The JPG environmental restoration program was discussed in an open forum. Attendees from the community found the town meeting to be a valuable forum for information exchange on the current status of JPG. Additional meetings are planned in the future.
- **Site Tours**—Tours of the installation are provided periodically to allow community members to gain first-hand knowledge of the site and observe the status of property reuse accomplishments. The most recent site tour was held at the installation on May 17, 1997.
- **Information Repository**—In March 1994, a public repository for information was established at the Madison-Jefferson County Public Library, located at 420 West Main Street in downtown Madison. The information repository is a place where documents and information pertaining to the environmental studies at JPG are stored and made available for public inspection and copying. The public has access to documents such as the Community Involvement Plan, Master Environmental Plan, the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS) Report, Responsiveness Summary, Decision Document, remedial design, fact sheets, and news releases.
- **Administrative Record**—An administrative record was established in the library at Hanover College in accordance with regulatory requirements in 1996. The administrative record includes a comprehensive set of documents addressing JPG's history and environmental activities. The administrative record forms the basis for selection of a response action and judicial review of any issue concerning the adequacy of any response action and as an additional vehicle for information exchange with the public.
- **Fact Sheets**—The following fact sheets describe the status of the Installation Restoration Program (IRP) and other installation environmental programs (e.g., underground storage tanks [USTs]) and have been made available to the public:
 - Status of environmental restoration
 - JPG site history
 - Depleted uranium information
 - Environmental cleanup efforts at JPG (e.g., unexploded ordnance [UXO])
- **Videos**—An educational video on UXO was released in 1997 and presented at a RAB meeting. Current plans are to make the video available to local schools and organizations as well as JPG visitors and workers at the leased property sites.
- **Media Releases**—JPG has issued releases to local media outlets to appraise the community of the status and progress of JPG's environmental restoration and closure process as newsworthy events or activities occur. Notices of meetings and

other special activities typically are announced through the media. The Army also cooperates with other federal agencies, such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, regarding release of relevant information on JPG.

- ***Mailing List***—A mailing list of all interested parties in the community is maintained by the U.S. Army and updated regularly (see Appendix A). This list is used regularly to communicate with interested community members.

1.2 COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The purpose of this Community Involvement Plan is to provide the framework and mechanisms for information exchange among all stakeholders in the closure and reuse of JPG. Specific goals and objectives are defined in Section 4 and tied to a series of scheduled activities. This plan has been revised to respond to the community's needs for more frequent and timely exchange of information on JPG and involvement in decisions on environmental restoration and land reuse plans.

2. JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND

JPG is located on 55,264 acres in Jefferson, Jennings, and Ripley Counties, Indiana (see **Figure 1**). The facility is divided into a northern impact area and a southern cantonment area, separated by an east-west firing line consisting of 268 former gun positions that were used to test ordnance. The northern area consists of 51,000 undeveloped and heavily wooded acres where discrete locations were targeted for munitions tests. The southern cantonment area housed support facilities for administration, ammunition assembly and testing, vehicle maintenance, residential housing, and recreation.

2.1 SITE HISTORY

The U.S. Army constructed JPG between 1940 and 1941 and operated the installation until 1995, when its mission was realigned to Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona. JPG's primary mission was the acceptance testing of ammunition and ordnance as well as propellant and weapons systems.

Approximately 25 million rounds of munitions were tested at JPG between 1941 and 1994. Munitions tested included high-explosive projectiles, propellants, cartridges, primers, fuzes, boosters, bombs, depleted uranium, and grenades. Under the guidelines for the installation closure plan, testing activities ceased in September 1994, and the facility closed in September 1995.

2.2 BASE REALIGNMENT AND CLOSURE

The U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) base realignment and closure (BRAC) program is directed at facilitating the disposal and reuse of installations while protecting human health and the environment. The U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (Aberdeen, Maryland) is responsible for managing JPG's closure, remediation, and property transfer.

The U.S. Army's strategy and schedule is designed to streamline and expedite JPG's disposal and reuse activities. In support of this process, the U.S. Army prepared several documents, which are serving as a basis for completing the closure process. One of these documents, referred to as the Cleanup and Reuse Plan (1992), identifies potential reuse options and associated cleanup costs. A second document, addressing the closure of JPG and realignment to Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona (USACE 1991), establishes the process and guidelines for the offering and disposal of government property. The environmental

impacts of various disposal and reuse options were explored in an EIS that was released in 1995 (DA 1995).

2.3 ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAMS

Studies of potential environmental contamination at JPG began in 1989 under the installation restoration program (IRP), a DOD program for the environmental investigations and cleanup of military installations. IRP investigations of the site were completed in 1992, and several areas requiring additional assessment were identified.

Investigations are ongoing to determine the nature and extent of contamination. Phase I investigations were completed in 1994. Phase II studies are expected to be completed by December 1997.

At the conclusion of these studies, remedies will be identified, assessed, and selected for areas requiring cleanup. The report documenting these cleanup remedies is scheduled for release in March 1999. If, at any time during the investigations, an area is determined to be an immediate risk to human health or the environment, prompt measures will be taken to address the situation. Based on these studies, 105 sites have been and/or are currently being investigated at the installation.

Because of JPG's mission as a proving ground, UXO is a major concern. Areas south of the firing line that are suspected of containing UXO are being surveyed and cleared. The U.S. Army is deferring UXO investigations and associated cleanup activities north of the firing line because of the associated health and safety hazards and environmental impacts.

The BRAC Cleanup Plan (USAEC 1996) provides additional details on the current status and plans for JPG's environmental restoration and associated compliance program. In addition, the document provides a road map for tracking progress on JPG's cleanup and property transfer process.

2.4 STATUS OF PROPERTY TRANSFERS

Potential reuse parcels at JPG include the Northern Firing Range (Reuse Parcel A), Southern Cantonment Area (Reuse Parcel B), and Off-Post Pumphouse (Reuse Parcel C). **Figure 2** indicates the locations of these parcels at the installation while **Table 1** highlights the transfer status of various parcels.

Reuse Parcel	Acres	Description and Proposed Reuse	Project Transfer Date	Transfer Mechanism	Recipient
A	50,950	Northern Firing Range; 1,000 acres for reuse as training area	To be determined	Federal transfer	Air National Guard
		Northern Firing Range	1997	Memorandum of Agreement	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
B	4,314	Cantonment Area; 3,400 acres for commercial, residential, and agricultural reuse	1996	Competitive public sale (leasing arrangement)	Ford Lumber and Building Supply Company
		Krueger Lake; 230 acres for recreational use area	1997	No cost public benefit conveyance	Jefferson County
		Building 216 (10,065 sq. ft.) and associated railroad tracks	1996	Sale	Madison Port Authority
		Papermill and Woodfill Road Area (40 acres), includes Bldgs. 182, 186, 189, 193, 223, 227, and 231	1997	Competitive public sale (transfer arrangement)	Ford Lumber and Building Supply Company
		400 acres west of airfield (potential UXO)	2000	Negotiated sale	Fort Lumber and Building Supply Company
C	1.2	Off-Post Pumphouse; reuse as like-kind	1997	No-cost public benefit conveyance	City of Madison, Indiana

leased or transferred. No land has been leased or transferred in Parcel A; however, the U.S. Army and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) in May 1997 to jointly manage the natural resources in this area. The Indiana Air National Guard is interested in the continued use of a portion of this area for training exercises.

In Reuse Parcel B, approximately 3,400 acres are being leased to Ford Lumber and Building Supply Company. Three additional parcels have been or are being transferred for private or public use.

Reuse Parcel C, located south of JPG property, includes a pump building and two well houses. This parcel has been transferred to the city of Madison.

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3. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

3.1 COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

Personal and telephone interviews of local residents, city and local officials, RAB members, Federal and state regulators, business, industry, media, and civic and environmental group members were conducted in March through May 1997 in support of the development of this Community Involvement Plan. The objectives of these interviews were to identify the individual's awareness of JPG's status, concerns about environmental issues, level of interest in JPG's closure and reuse plans, observations on the RAB process, and suggestions for enhancing communication between the U.S. Army and the interested community.

3.1.1 Approach

The U.S. Army's approach to the interviews included consideration of possible participants in the surrounding three-county area and use of both personal and telephone interviews. The existing mailing list was expanded to include additional citizens, and educational and business representatives based on discussions with individuals from the area.

A letter describing the plan's update was distributed to approximately 200 people requesting interview participants. Individuals interested in participating in the interview process contacted JPG to schedule an interview. Communication specialists with Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC), a contractor to the U.S. Army, conducted personal and telephone interviews between March 10 and 14, 1997. A U.S. Army public affairs representative supported the interviews and various representatives of EPA Region V and IDEM also attended most of the personal interviews. Additional telephone interviews were completed in April and May 1997.

All interviews were documented to identify the interviewee as well as his/her responses to the interview questions, including suggestions for improving the community

involvement program. Appendix A includes a copy of the mailing list, and Appendix B includes the letter distributed to potential interviewees and the questionnaire used to guide the interview process. The results of the approximately 50 interviews conducted are presented below.

3.1.2 Results

The opinions, perspectives, and suggestions from the community interviewees are highlighted in this section and followed by a summary of key information needs and recommendations for enhancing the community involvement program. Each community interviewee was asked identical open-ended questions. Each interviewee also was requested to provide additional information that was not addressed in the questionnaire. As a result of this approach, unanticipated community information needs were included in the process of revising the Community Involvement Plan.

In general, the community is disappointed in the U.S. Army's decisions and management relating to JPG's current closure and planned reuse. The community unanimously believes that the U.S. Army's decision to close the installation was short-sighted, especially since it appears that so much of the installation is too contaminated with UXO to allow for reuse options that will provide economic benefits to the community.

A significant amount of misperception and misinformation was found among community members concerning the status of JPG and its environmental programs. Many people are not aware of JPG's current status and many do not care, since they perceive little can be done for the local communities. Numerous individuals indicated that the installation has been "forgotten" when asked about the general public perception of JPG. However, many of the people who care and are interested in the status of ongoing and future actions do not have accurate information or are unsure how to become more involved.

The interviews also indicated that the U.S. Army has not always communicated adequately with the community on the BRAC process, environmental cleanup, and reuse. A general sense of mistrust and frustration exists because of the U.S. Army's changing decisions and schedules. The public expressed concern that they could not believe anything the U.S. Army said, since enunciated plans and decisions frequently changed.

Some individuals are concerned about unexploded ordnance (UXO) safety issues and want assurance that the land transferred will be "clean." Others believe the UXO survey and clearance activities along with other environmental cleanup activities south of the firing line are too expensive. A number of people identified safety and security issues and want the U.S. Army to be responsible for monitoring the entire perimeter of the northern area. A comment about "being responsible for your own mess" frequently was cited. On the other hand, some individuals indicate UXO is probably not a problem in the area north of the firing line since hunters and other individuals are allowed to use the land. There is an impression that as long as citizens know the right people, access to the land can be made.

Some members of the community think the U.S. Army has done the best job they could in communicating JPG information to the public, but that they have been severely hampered by the BRAC process and DOD bureaucracy. Many individuals thought it unconscionable that the U.S. Army HQ made so many decisions about JPG that affected so many lives and yet did not always have sufficient information.

Many opinions were voiced about the property reuse issue and opinions varied, but, in general, the community wants to see something productive happen with the installation property, even if it takes the form of a wildlife refuge. The community wants to be involved in the decisionmaking process concerning reuse issues.

Statistics about responses to individual questions are identified in **Table 2**.

3.1.3 Community Information Needs

The community highlighted the need for information in several areas, including:

- Provide current and timely status reports
- Generate regular media updates
- Develop information materials that are less technical and bureaucratic
- Conduct additional small group and one-on-one dialogues
- Publish points-of-contact
- Keep local officials informed.

3.1.4 Recommendations

Based on the comments received, a number of recommendations are proposed to create more opportunities for informing and involving the community in JPG's closure and reuse. Among the recommendations that are being factored into the U.S. Army's plans described in Section 4 include:

- Prepare a variety of supporting material to clearly explain the environmental restoration process

Question 1—Are you familiar with the current status of the Jefferson Proving Ground?

Answer—Approximately 2/3 of respondents were familiar with the current status.

Question 2—Do you have any particular concerns about the site, its past activities, or plans for future use? If so, what are they?

Answer—Again, approximately 2/3 of the respondents had concerns. It was interesting that 1/3 had no concerns. Of those with concerns, most were concerned about the UXO, the depleted uranium, and the reuse issues—definitely wanting to see positive uses for the land. A number of people expressed concern about the historical properties like Old Timbers Lodge, north of the firing line.

Question 3—Are you aware of any environmental problems associated with JPG?

Answer—Most people were aware of some problems. Most frequently mentioned were the same as in Question 2, although people also mentioned sulfur and lead. Some people were quite concerned about the water and wanted assurance that the U.S. Army has not forgotten about potential runoff.

Question 4—Do you know about the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and its role in the transition of JPG?

Answer—Interviewees were somewhat familiar with the RAB—about 2/3 of the individuals knew about the RAB, fewer were sure of its role in the transition.

Question 5—Do you think the Army has done a good job in keeping people in your area informed and up-to-date about the environmental and base closure activities at JPG?

Answer—About one-half of the respondents thought the U.S. Army had not done a good job in communicating. Most said they thought some U.S. Army representatives were trying, but that the military hierarchy and other obstacles confounded the issues.

Question 6—Are you interested in receiving information about JPG? What kind of information? What is the best way to receive information?

Answer—Almost all respondents wanted more information and most wanted that information in a written form, either through direct mail, fact sheets, or through the media news stories. Frequently mentioned were meeting notices, which respondents sometimes missed. Suggestions included putting notices in the papers earlier and running them more frequently.

Question 7—What are the most popular or widely used news media in this area?

Answer—Most people thought the newspapers were the best media outlet for reaching the majority of the public in the three counties. Many were quick to point out that the U.S. Army had focused too much attention on the Madison media and not enough in the other areas. In addition, a number of people thought radio public service announcements might be good communication mechanisms. A few also thought information on the Internet or on the cable TV access channel might be effective.

Question 8—How do you think the Army can best interact with people from nearby communities to discuss JPG issues?

Answer—Numerous respondents wanted to see more (but smaller) meetings and asked that the U.S. Army vary the locations of these meetings so more people can conveniently attend. Others thought that more face-to-face discussions were essential. A few people suggested that the U.S. Army do a better job of communicating more frequently with local officials, who then could disseminate the information to their constituents.

Question 9—What is the most convenient or best location and day/time to hold a meeting or public program about JPG?

Answer—Answers were very mixed on this question. Most people wanted meetings to rotate locations, but no clear consensus emerged on the best day or time. The comment frequently was made that people were already so busy, it would probably not make a difference when meetings were held.

Question 10—How do you think the community perceives JPG and the plans for its future use? **Jefferson Proving Ground**

Answer—Many opinions surfaced on this question. The majority see JPG as a "dead issue" and have given up on influencing its potential future use. Some said they were "cautiously optimistic" that something good would still come of the property. Many were satisfied about the reuse alternatives being pursued south of the firing line. Comments were mixed about the National Guard's use of part of the land north of the firing line.

Question 11—Are you aware of the role that the EPA and the State of Indiana Department of Environmental Management have in environmental restoration at JPG? What do you think it should be?

Answer—Some were familiar with the roles of the agencies and welcomed the involvement of oversight by the regulators. Others thought that EPA and the State were going too far in monitoring.

Question 12—Do you know of interested community members we should interview?

Answer—Most people had suggestions and provided them.

Question 13—Do you have anything else to add?

Answer—Several people used this question to repeat some of their earlier concerns about JPG—specifically about UXO and safety and security issues. Others wanted to talk about the money being wasted on environmental studies and cleaning up JPG and thought the Army should lock the gate and leave, keeping guards behind to monitor.

- Interact more frequently with the media using news releases, announcements, and fact sheets to inform them of ongoing or upcoming events
- Continually update and use the mailing list to inform and encourage participation in JPG's activities and ask for public participation on specific issues

- Provide more opportunities for small group and one-on-one discussions.

3.2 RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD

The RAB is an advisory board designed to act as a focal point for the exchange of information between JPG and the local community regarding restoration activities. The RAB is intended to bring together people who reflect the diverse interests within the local community, to create opportunities for dialogue and facilitate the timely and continued two-way flow of information between the affected community and the installation.

3.2.1 Role

The role of the RAB is to improve public participation by involving the community in the environmental restoration decisionmaking process. The RAB's responsibilities are to:

- Act as a forum for discussion and exchange of information on cleanup issues and advise the Army on cleanup options
- Conduct regular meetings, open to the public and at convenient times
- Keep meeting minutes and make them available to the public
- Review and evaluate documents
- Identify project requirements
- Recommend priorities among sites or projects
- Identify applicable standards and propose cleanup levels consistent with planned land use.

3.2.2 Accomplishments

The JPG RAB, formed in 1994, initially met quarterly and now meets bimonthly to address a wide spectrum of issues and topics. The Co-chairmen of the 19-member board are Paul Cloud, the BRAC Environmental Coordinator (BEC), and Richard Hill, a local citizen and member of an environmental group called Save the Valley. Members include individuals from state and Federal regulatory agencies as well as community members from the surrounding three-county area. Appendix C includes a listing of the names and addresses of the current RAB members.

Among the RAB's accomplishments are the review of several key documents and work plans, such as the ongoing RI/FS, accelerated cleanup plans, and UXO plans. The RAB has discussed openly ongoing environmental restoration work and current/future leases and transfers. Recommendations have been made and incorporated into ongoing work.

All RAB meetings are open to the public and announced through the local newspapers and television. Meeting transcripts have been completed and sent to RAB members. RAB meetings have included presenters from local, state, and Federal agencies reporting on the status of specific environmental issues at JPG, along with regular updates from the JPG Environmental Coordinator and contractors tasked with environmental studies at JPG.

3.2.3 Future Plans

The RAB will continue to have a significant role in JPG's closure and environmental restoration process. Several initiatives, as discussed in Section 4, are underway or planned to streamline RAB operations and encourage participation and dialogue among the stakeholders. Such initiatives include hosting training sessions on technical issues, rotating the location of RAB meetings within the three-county area, providing additional opportunities for public comments, and developing additional information materials, such as fact sheets. The RAB membership will be reviewed annually to ensure members' interest and ability to participate.

3.3 ORGANIZATIONAL ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES

With the assistance of other U.S. Army offices, the JPG BEC, Mr. Paul Cloud, is responsible for management and implementation of the JPG Community Involvement Plan, along with all other environmental studies and issues at JPG. Mr. Cloud is associated with the U.S. Army Test and Evaluation Command (TECOM) in Aberdeen, Maryland. His responsibilities include providing timely and accurate information to stakeholders throughout all phases of the environmental cleanup program and offering the public opportunities to review and comment on all aspects of JPG's closure and reuse. Other specific responsibilities that relate to community involvement include:

- Respond to media and public queries
- Establish and maintain a mailing list that includes local, state, and Federal officials, business, industry, education, media, environmental and civic organizations, and interested citizens
- Schedule and coordinate public meetings, presentations, briefings, and onsite tours

- Update, maintain, and index contents of the information repository and administrative record.

The U.S. Army's partners on the BRAC Cleanup Team (BCT) and RAB are IDEM and EPA Region V. These agencies share responsibility for informing the public on environmental compliance and restoration activities at JPG and providing input to related actions. IDEM and EPA's communication outreach responsibilities include:

- Supporting the RAB Co-Chairmen in working with the RAB community members
- Serving as an information referral and resource bank for the community and installation
- Assisting in education and training of RAB members
- Providing timely reviews and revisions of community outreach related information.

4. COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

The following sections define the goals, objectives, plan, and schedule for JPG's community involvement programs.

4.1 PROGRAM GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of the community involvement program is to facilitate dialogue, provide information exchange, and offer opportunities for involvement among stakeholders interested in the environmental restoration, closure, and reuse of JPG. The following specific objectives have been defined in support of this goal:

- Inform and educate local residents and officials on the environmental restoration process and the results of related investigations and cleanup activities
- Give stakeholders opportunities to be involved and provide input to the process of environmental studies, cleanup alternatives, and related decisions
- Address the media and community's information needs and inquiries through timely release of the most up-to-date information
- Maintain a climate of openness, mutual trust, and understanding
- Provide a single point-of-contact for responding to information requests
- Identify and resolve community involvement issues and potential concerns.

4.2 PLANS

Successful community involvement programs generate trust and confidence by providing timely and accurate information and soliciting and valuing public participation through a variety of mechanisms, such as a RAB. In Section 4.2.1, the overall communication strategy is presented and Section 4.2.2 describes the mechanisms the U.S. Army can use to ensure the community involvement goals and objectives are achieved. A schedule of activities is presented in Section 4.2.3.

4.2.1 Communication Strategy

The communication strategy for this plan is tailored to the information needs and community concerns identified during the recent community interviews. The result of an effective communication strategy will be an informed citizenry that works in partnership with the U.S. Army and other agencies involved in the JPG environmental restoration and reuse throughout the decisionmaking process. To be successful, the communication strategy will depend on the effective implementation of appropriate and targeted communication mechanisms.

4.2.2 Communication Mechanisms

Approaches to communicating with and involving the community in JPG's activities differ with respect to the various groups and individuals with an interest in JPG. To expand communication and ensure effective interactions between the U.S. Army and the community, the following community involvement activities are planned, based on the community interviews:

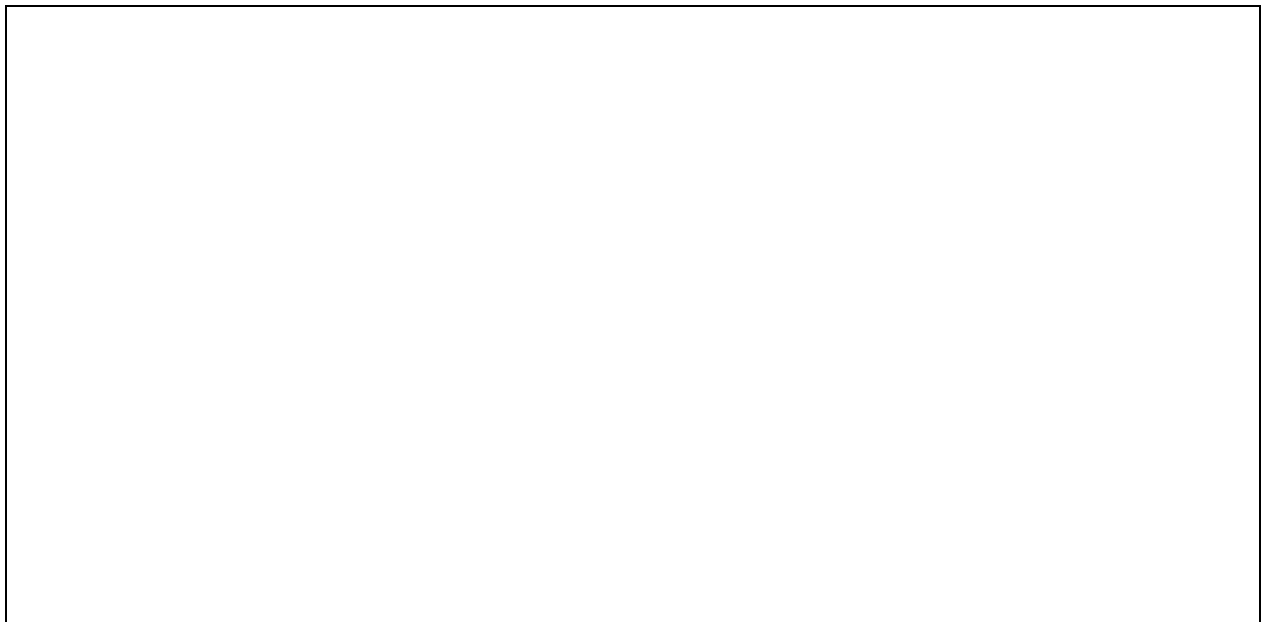
- **Restoration Advisory Board**—The RAB will continue to be used as a primary forum for informing and involving stakeholders on JPG's environmental restoration activities and property disposal efforts. The U.S. Army will maintain an active and interested RAB membership and rely on RAB members to disseminate information to the community or groups they represent. The U.S. Army will announce meetings as soon as possible, but at least 1 week prior to the meeting date by news release or public service announcements using the media list in Appendix D.
- **World Wide Web Page**—The Army will establish a World Wide Web site specific for JPG that will facilitate the public's access to information on JPG. The site is planned to be established by January 1998.
- **Neighbor Information Program**—Property owners and renters of lands adjacent to JPG will be mailed updates on site investigations and proposed remedial actions, whenever appropriate. If sufficient interest is expressed by JPG neighbors, JPG will arrange a special briefing and site visit.

- ***Small Group Briefings/Presentations***—JPG's Environmental Coordinator or representative will provide presentations to civic organizations, local officials, or other groups at their request. These briefings will provide information for community leaders to use in response to inquiries from constituents and to facilitate the dissemination of information within the community. The presentations could be coordinated by either the JPG BEC or by JPG's Site Management Team. Slide and informational programs also can be presented to civic and special interest groups at their regularly scheduled meetings upon request.
- ***U.S. Army Point-of-Contact***—JPG's BEC, Mr. Paul Cloud, will continue to serve as a point-of-contact for direct calls, either through the commercial line or toll-free number, from citizens or other individuals seeking information on environmental restoration studies and relating to JPG. Mr. Cloud will coordinate responses to inquiries with other Department of Army representatives, when appropriate, and work with partner agencies (EPA and IDEM) to ensure that questions are answered to the satisfaction of the requestor. Mr. Michael Early, the Base Transition Coordinator (BTC), will continue to serve as the Base Transition Coordinator and as a source of information on the installations reuse.
- ***News Releases/Public Service Announcements***—News releases and public service announcements will be prepared and distributed to local and regional media outlets as meetings are scheduled, special events are planned, significant program changes occur, or other information of general interest is generated. Regular and ongoing briefings with local journalists will be scheduled to keep these stakeholders aware of JPG's status.
- ***Fact Sheets***—Topical and timely fact sheets will be developed and distributed to those on the mailing list, including JPG neighbors; civic, environmental, and citizen groups; regulatory officials; state, local, and Federal officials; businesses; and local and regional media as information needs warrant. The fact sheets will be directed to address the concerns as expressed by local communities and will include status of studies and remedial actions, updates on schedules, and special interest items. Other fact sheets will be issued on an as-needed basis and will be concise, simply written, and informative to allow the general public to become more aware of the specifics of the environmental restoration program. The fact sheets will be placed in the information repository.
- ***JPG Mailing List***—The JPG mailing list shown in Appendix A will be updated regularly based on the level of interest shown by the community. Community members who attend meetings, request information, or otherwise indicate a continuing interest in the environmental restoration programs at JPG will be added to the list. At regular intervals, the RAB members will be requested to review the list and suggest additions.

- **Community Informational Meetings**—Community meetings will be scheduled and coordinated by the BEC with assistance provided by JPG's Site Management Team, as needed. The U.S. Army will work with the RAB and other community groups to develop agendas that meet the information needs of targeted attendees at such meetings and schedule them at a time convenient to the general public.
- **JPG Tours/Open Houses/Special Events**—Tours, open houses, and special events can be held with interested groups or individuals to familiarize the community with JPG and its current status. The BEC, in conjunction with RAB members, will recommend when such activities will enhance public understanding of the investigations. These activities will be organized by the JPG Site Management Team. A tour was held on May 17, 1997 and was well received by the participants.

4.2.3 Schedule of Activities

Figure 3 outlines the schedule of activities for the community involvement program over the next 2 years. The BEC will oversee schedules and milestones and review progress annually in conjunction with the RAB, agency partners, and others to determine if there is a need to shift the focus of the Community Involvement Plan.



5. REFERENCES

Dames and Moore. 1995. Community Relations Plan. Prepared for USAEC under Contract No. DAAA15-90-D-0015. February.

Department of Army. 1995. Environmental Impact Statement on Disposal and Reuse of Jefferson Proving Ground.

Department of Defense (DOD). DOD Guidance on Improving Public Involvement in Environmental Cleanup at Closing Bases.

DOD. 1996. Proposed Rule on Restoration Advisory Boards, 32 CFR Part 202, August 6.

Mason and Hanger, et al. 1995. Cleanup and Reuse Options, Jefferson Proving Ground. Prepared for the U.S. Army by Mason and Hanger, et al. under Contract No. DAAA09-92-0330. October.

Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC). 1997. Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) Cleanup Plan. Prepared for USAEC under Contract No. DACA31-94-D-0066. May.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Louisville District). 1991. Environmental Impact Statement: Closing of Jefferson Proving Ground and Realignment to Yuma Proving Ground, Arizona. Prepared for the U.S. Department of Army. September.

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Appendix A

Mailing List

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Appendix B

Community Interview Letter and Questionnaire

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**JEFFERSON PROVING GROUND
COMMUNITY RELATIONS PLAN UPDATE
MARCH 1997**

COMMUNITY INTERVIEWS

Person Interviewed _____

Affiliation _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

1. Are you familiar with the current status of the Jefferson Proving Ground?
2. Do you have any particular concerns about the site, its past activities, or plans for future use? If so, what are they?
3. Are you aware of any environmental problems associated with JPG?
4. Do you know about the Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) and its role in the transition of JPG?
5. Do you think the Army has done a good job of keeping people in your area informed and up-to-date about the environmental and base closure activities at JPG? (If no, why not?)
6. Are you interested in receiving information about JPG? what kind of information (e.g., fact sheet, newsletter, press releases, etc.)? What is the best way to receive information (e.g., mailings, radio, etc.)?

7. What are the most popular or widely used news media in this area—television stations, newspapers, radio programs?
8. How do you think the Army can best interact with people from nearby communities to discuss JPG issues?
9. What is the most convenient or best location and day/time to hold a meeting or public program about JPG?
10. How do you think the community perceives JPG and the plans for its future use?
11. Are you aware of the role that the EPA and the State of Indiana have in the environmental restoration at JPG? what do you think it should be?
12. Do you know of interested community members who we should interview?
13. Do you have anything else to add?

Appendix C

RAB Members

APPENDIX C

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